

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed May 21, 2004 has been received and carefully considered. Upon entry of the preceding amendments, claims 3-5, 8-9 and 46 will be pending in the Application. Applicants respectfully request entry of the preceding amendments which do not introduce new issues into the Application and which would put all of the claims in condition for allowance pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b).

In the Final Office Action mailed May 21, 2004, the Examiner finally rejected claims 1-36, and 46-47 which were under examination. The Examiner indicated that claim 48 was objected to, but the Examiner indicated that the claim was directed to patentable subject matter, for which Applicants express their appreciation.

I. Amendments to the Claims.

Claim 46 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 48 and intervening claim 47 consistent with the Examiner's indication that claim 48 contained patentable subject matter and that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 3-5 and 8-9 have been amended to depend from claim 46. Thus, as claim 46 is now in condition for allowance, claims 3-5 and 8-9 which depend from claim 46 are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 10-45, and 47-48 have been cancelled without prejudice and Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications directed to the subject matter of these claims.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-5, 8-9, and 46 are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore request that the present amendments be entered and that the Application be allowed and passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the Application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative.

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Respectfully submitted,



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